

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## I. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cordelia area, located in west Fairfield in Solano County, is one of the fastest growing communities in California. In the past twenty years, the population has increased over 300%, from 3,706 in 1980 to 15,185 in 2000. The community has sprung up as residential development has grown in formerly rural areas adjacent to the intersection of Interstate Highways 80 and 680, two of the Bay Area's major regional transportation routes.

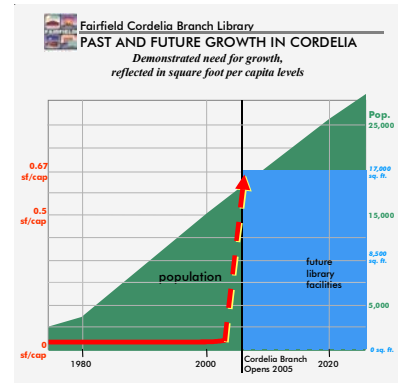
Cordelia faces challenges as it grows into a fully-fledged community. Traffic congestion during commute hours is so severe that the community's access to Fairfield services is virtually cut off for several hours each day. As the Cordelia population reaches critical mass, residents have become increasingly active in asserting their needs for community service. Public demand for access to the full spectrum of civic life, including a public library, has become progressively intense. The City of Fairfield has made improved service to this population a high priority. Retail stores, schools and community services have opened in the area. The City Council has made the establishment of a library for this community its highest priority, to provide Cordelia residents with the quality of life enjoyed by the rest of the Fairfield community.

Cordelia's affordable housing prices, its proximity to transportation routes as well as its pastoral setting make it attractive to families living elsewhere in the state. Even with the ongoing traffic problems, the population continues to increase. ABAG projects the total population of the service area to increase to 25,340 by 2020.

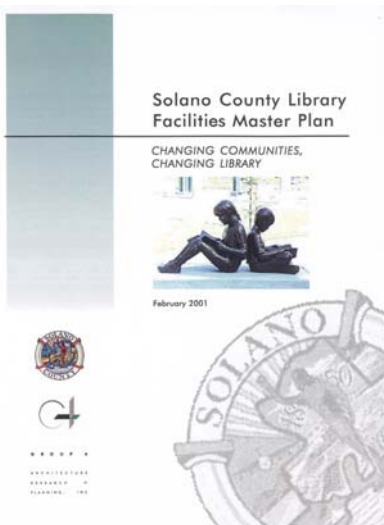
Currently, five public schools serve the community and a sixth school will open in 2006. Fairfield-Suisun School District opened its newest campus, Rodriguez High School, in Fall 2001 with 800 students, all freshmen and sophomores. By 2004/05, the high school will have an enrollment of 2,000 in grades 9 through 12. School growth has moved forward rapidly. Students' needs for library service – to enhance study skills and in so doing, to help students improve test scores and job-readiness – are acute. With traffic congestion a major physical and psychological barrier, access to library service is essentially unavailable to many children and youth. Responding to these expressed needs, the City of Fairfield, Solano County Library, and Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District developed two collaborative services and entered into a joint use agreement to address these needs. The result is a library with space and resources dedicated to a Computer/Study Skills Center and a Career Center.

The City of Fairfield is actively encouraging commercial and civic development in Cordelia, with over 3.75 million square feet planned for the area. In 2001, a shopping center with major retail establishments opened in North Cordelia. Office space development is underway, with 160,000 square feet of office space was recently completed and occupied.

Cordelia residents have become increasingly outspoken in their desire to forge



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*"We would be so happy to have a library in this area... Education=Books=Library."*

- Winter 2001/2002  
Community Survey

## LIBRARY SERVICE LEVELS Fairfield Cordelia Library

	HAVE	NEED
<b>COLLECTION</b>	0 volumes 0 volumes/capita	47,000 volumes 1.85 volumes/capita
<b>SEATING</b>	0 seats 0 seats/1000 pop.	115 seats 4.5 seats/1000 pop.
<b>COMPUTERS</b>	0 computers 0 comp./1000 pop.	40 computers 1.58 comp./1000 pop.
<b>STORYTELLING*</b>	0 seats 0 seats/1000 pop.	35 spaces 1.38 spaces/1000 pop.
<b>COMMUNITY ROOM</b>	0 seats 0 seats/1000 pop.	75 seats 3.0 seats/1000 pop.
<b>GROUP STUDY*</b>	0 seats 0 seats/1000 pop.	24 seats 0.9 seats/1000 pop.
<b>PARKING</b>	0 spaces 0 spaces/g.f.a.	39 spaces 1 space/400 s.f. public space
<b>BUILDING SIZE</b>	0 s.f. 0 s.f./capita	17,000 s.f. 0.67 s.f./capita

Citywide Numbers based on projected population of 25,340 for 2020.

\*Group Study seats included in "Seating" count.

\*Storytelling seats may be incorporated into community room if desired.

a supportive community. In 2000, the City created the Cordelia Area Task Force to examine the many issues involved and provide a forum for thoughtful community input. The Task Force recommendations were presented to the City Council in 2001. Prominent among the recommendation was the call for a public library in the community.

The Solano County Library developed a Facilities Master Plan in 2000 and 2001. The Plan's top priority recommendation for improved library facilities to serve Fairfield was the construction of a library in Cordelia. Community input at every level supports this need. The current needs assessment study included community meetings with parents, educators, teens and the general public. The desire for a library, both to improve access to books and information and to provide a sense of community, was commented on by almost every person who participated. Survey responses, interviews with key community informants and other input methods all validated this need.

The present needs assessment has reached the same conclusion: the Cordelia community needs a 17,000 square foot library located within its service area. The facility needs to be located centrally, easily accessible by surface streets from any sector of the service area. At 17,000 square feet, the library offers each resident 0.67 square feet, a target slightly lower than the 0.76 square feet recommended by the Facilities Master Plan but well within the recommended range of planning authorities such as Joseph Wheeler (0.6 – 0.65 sf/capita). The overall square footage reflects the actual needs of this community – especially the need for "people spaces" – for reader and study seating, for meetings and programming and for technology access.

The Library needs to provide a full spectrum of library services, including a collection of books, audio and video materials and magazines and newspapers. The Library's steady development of its online information resources will have an impact on the size of the print collection. 47,000 volumes of books and AV materials will be sufficient to meet community needs.

Adequate seating for the public, at reader tables, in lounge chairs and in small group study rooms, is a primary service need. One hundred fifteen (115) seats are recommended: 91 at reader seats and 24 in three small group study rooms. Dedicated space for community meetings and library-sponsored programs is a critical need. There is currently no public meeting space in the area that is available at no charge.

